



Cross and Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church

P.O. Box 331, 13 School St., Lebanon, NH 03766

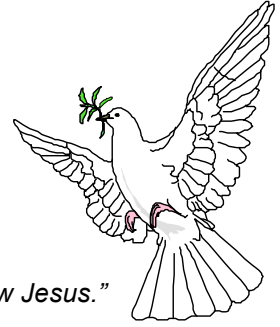
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"Not a perfect church, not a perfect people, just a simple desire to follow Jesus."



Satan Is a Poopy Head

Laurie Edwards

We were out doing some back to school shopping and came across one of those novelty t-shirt stores in the mall. You know the kind – the store's window display was full of t-shirts emblazoned with slogans once considered inappropriate for use in polite company. Should we stop, we asked ourselves, or just walk by? Well, perhaps we *should* have just walked by, but instead we took the bait and headed right on in. We got a few laughs, had our sensitivities offended, and, I hate to admit it, came out of the store owning a couple of t-shirts which we probably won't be wearing to church any time soon.

Seriously though, the t-shirt we just couldn't resist was a yellow one with red lettering that said, in children's scribble, "Satan is a poopy head." I sort of hoped one of the men in the family would enjoy wearing it, but no takers so far. I think our real reason for buying it was that on a very basic level it is true. Satan is a poopy head. Sadly, sometimes people watch the lives of some Christians and conclude that God is the poopy head. They see the Christian life as consisting of a list of things you can't do, and they see God as a great cosmic school master who forbids his students to have any fun. They somehow get the impression that God is out to ruin people's lives.

The truth is, since the Garden of Eden, it's Satan who's been out trying to ruin people's lives. I've yet to meet a person who wishes they'd been more promiscuous when they were younger, or an alcoholic who wishes they'd spent just a little more time drinking, or a smoker who wishes they'd started smoking at a younger age. We're constantly bombarded with television shows, movies, and

advertising that points out the pleasures of sin without ever being honest about its consequences. I'll try not to get stuck here, you all (presumably) know the truth about sin, but it can't hurt to be reminded of the truth about Satan:

Satan is a poopy head.

It's just a fact. Some of the various names used for him in the Bible literally mean slanderer, one with hostile intent, the accuser, liar, the adversary. He is called the great deceiver, the tempter. He disguises himself as an angel of light. He is described as the one who "has been sinning since the beginning" (1 John 3:8). He is "the enemy", "the evil one", "the prince of this world."

Satan likes nothing better than to ruin our lives. He convinces us that if a little of something is good, then a lot of it must be better. He keeps telling us that sin is actually a good idea and somehow we believe him. And so we find ourselves launched into gluttony, greed, drunkenness, sexual immorality, impure thoughts, gossip, slander, selfishness, anger, jealousy, quarrels, and the list goes on and on. Face it, the opportunities for sin are endless (see Galatians 5). What are we to do?

Of course, the simple answer is the one in the anti-drug commercials: Just Say No. But somehow it never seems quite that simple, does it? We'd never sin if it didn't seem like a good idea at the time. Sin is alluring, it's deceptive, it slips in sometimes without our even seeming to notice it. Face it: Satan is a poopy head.

What I need in my life is more of God and less of Satan. If I'm full of the Holy Spirit, there won't be any room for the devil to do his dirty work. And so I have to keep going back to the basics: Read my Bible. Pray. Spend time with other Christians. And be sure to remind myself: Satan is a poopy head.

LADIES ---Save the date: Oct. 17, 2009
Iron Sharpens Iron
WOMEN'S Conference
Hartford, CT

- Saturday, 10/17, 9 AM – 5 PM (not an overnight)
- Early group sign-up - \$39.00/person (if we have 10+ women registered together by 9/30)
- Keynote speakers – Elizabeth George, Shaunti Feldhahn
- 16 different seminars with various leaders
- See poster/conference booklet (for seminar topics & speaker bios) on bulletin board at back of sanctuary or downstairs outside kitchen...

Come on – let's all go
invite a friend – it will be a blast!

For info or to sign up, contact Ruth Newcomb at church, at 603-448-2782, or at Ruthless_girl@yahoo.com

NATHAN TUSKER AT FIRST BAPTIST!

Nathan Tusker, 2006 Artist of the Year for Australian Christian Music, will be sharing in our worship service on Sunday, August 9 at 10:00 AM. He'll be sharing his music and the ministry of Compassion International. Don't miss this special service!

BABY BOTTLES ARE DUE

If you have not yet returned baby bottles for CareNet's Baby Bottle fundraiser, please return them to the church ASAP. Thanks!

AUGUST CONCERT OF PRAYERS

A note from your Board of Deacons: Please mark your calendars for our August Morning Concert of Prayers on Saturday, August 29 from 8:30A.M.-12:30P.M. We will meet in the church sanctuary. During this time we will pray together in small groups for the Prayer Requests that have been turned in; we will take a short walk through town and pray for various groups (i.e. schools, firemen, neighbors, etc.); and we will pray for numerous concerns of our Lord's church and of our world. If you plan to attend and want to be more involved, as a scripture reader and prayer leader, please contact Bob Owens at rbtowens@comcast.net or 448-9717, or contact Laurie Edwards at 448-5618 or office@lebfirstbaptist.com. We look forward to praying together with you.

VBS A SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this year's Vacation Bible School a success! Special thanks to Tammi Dubuque for directing. We had a great week at *Crocodile Dock: Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light!* We were blessed with wonderful volunteers and a great group of kids!

NEW NAME FOR CARENET! BANQUET!

CareNet is now known as **Pregnancy Center of the Upper Valley**. The Center will hold its annual fundraising banquet on September 24th. If you are interested please contact table hosts Doree & Tom Clifford (448-4174) or the Center at 298-6123.

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

We've already received the following corrections/additions to the newly printed directory. If you know of others, please contact the church office (448-5618).

Brooks, Barbara
21 West St..
Lebanon, NH 03766
448-9555

Cole, Stephen & Gretchen
glcole@dishmail.net

Hemmerling, Hal & Jan Gerbig
603-353-4802

Kingsbury, Dorothea
P.O. Box 26
Ascutney, VT 05030

Langley, Jeannette
135 Three Mile Rd.
Hanover, NH 03755

MacAdam, Joyce (new)
39 North Park St., #3F
Lebanon, NH 03766
448-7089

Nunn, Tim
P.O. Box 4273
White River Jct., VT 05001
802-353-3031
Tnunn65@comcast.net

Trumbull, Marilyn
Marilyn.E.Trumbull@Hitchcock.org

RALLY DAY COMING! Sunday School resumes Sunday, September 13th! 48-PRAYER VIGIL

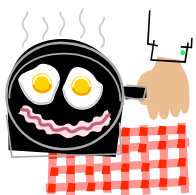
July 10-12 we had our first ever 48-hour prayer vigil. People signed up for 2 hour prayer blocks so that someone was praying in the church around the clock for 48 hours. To facilitate prayer time, a "prayer closet" has been set up in the storage area at the back of Kilburn Hall with an easy chair, lamp, wall hangings, etc. It's exciting to sense God at work in our midst in growing the prayer life of First Baptist. A 72-hour prayer vigil is being planned for September! Be on the lookout for the dates to be announced in the near future. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the sanctuary bulletin board if you would like to volunteer to pray during a time slot.

DO YOU HAVE A CHURCH KEY?

The trustees are anticipating changing locks on the Green Street entrance. If you are in possession of a key to the church, please contact the church office (448-5618 or office@lebfirstbaptist.com) so we can get an accurate idea of how many keys are out there and who will need a key to the new lock.

PASTOR'S VACATION

The pastor will be on vacation August 20-27. If you have a pastoral emergency during that time, please contact Bob Owens (448-9717) or Dan Nash (448-6023). Food Pantry hours will be posted in the Sunday bulletin.



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, August 15
7:30 AM
All Men Welcome!



Concert of Prayers
Saturday, Aug. 29
8:30AM-12:30PM
Join Us!

Summer Picnic and Concert

Gove Hill Conference Center
1646 Gove Hill Road, Thetford Center, VT

Sunday, August 9

2:00 – 6:00 p.m. (rain or shine)

Come and enjoy an afternoon of swimming, fun and games or relaxation.
Bring drink, meat to grill and a side dish or dessert to share.

Concert by Nathan Tasker

4:00 p.m.



- Incredible singer/songwriter, originally from Australia.
- Voted "2006 Artist of the Year" & recipient of "Song of the Year" for Australian Christian Music.
- Three #1 radio singles on the Australian Charts and six top 10 radio singles!

Now calls Nashville home and is excited to be sharing his music in the states! Nathan will share about the ministry of Compassion International.

Freewill offering will be received

Visit <http://mathantasker.com/> for more about Nathan

Directions to Gove Hill are at www.ghsm.org/govehill

"Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

"By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity,